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Defendant Knew of 21 Double Agents, Jury Hears

ALEXANDRIA, Va., April 9 (AP) — Richard Craig Smith, a former Army civilian intelligence official charged with espionage, either controlled or had full knowledge of 21 double-agent operations, his onetime Army supervisor testified today.

The supervisor, Mel Jones, who was Mr. Smith's immediate superior at the Intelligence and Security Command for several years before Mr. Smith resigned his post in 1980, said the defendant was the case officer or alternate case officer for the 21 spies who purported to be working for the Soviet Union but were actually acting for the United States.

Earlier, a top agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation testified Mr. Smith had said he had sold out several double agents to the Soviet Union but confessed this only after he realized "people could get hurt" for the \$11,000 he had been paid by a Soviet official in Tokyo.

Agent Describes Confession

The F.B.I. agent, Michael Waguespack, a specialist in Soviet espionage, told a Federal jury Tuesday that Mr. Smith admitted in early 1984 that he had given Moscow key information about six double-agent operations and had possibly jeopardized a seventh, after he denied for months he had passed on any secrets.

Mr. Smith, 42 years old, is charged with two counts of espionage, one count of conspiracy and two counts of passing secrets to the Soviet Union. If convicted of any of the espionage or conspiracy counts, he could face life imprisonment.

The Government was expected to wrap up its case promptly after the jury heard a parade of F.B.I. agents testify that Mr. Smith gradually got a troubled conscience after what he had originally said was a venture to dupe the Soviet Union out of money in 1982.

The same agents disclosed that the

F.B.I. tried to turn the tables on the Soviet Union by using information Mr. Smith gave them about Moscow's methods.

It did not work out, even though the Soviet Union was tricked by coded notes delivered in flower pots and the like, including two recorded telephone calls.

Mr. Waguespack said that for months Mr. Smith had stuck to a story he originally told the F.B.I. in 1984 that he had tricked a Soviet intelligence official, Viktor Okunev, out of \$11,000 in Tokyo without compromising any secrets.

Meanwhile, Mr. Waguespack said, the F.B.I. tracked Mr. Smith's intelligence career with the Army, including his role as case officer for several double agents. In one case, Mr. Waguespack said, he found evidence the operation was compromised after Mr. Smith met with the Soviet agent.

Mr. Waguespack said he had asked Mr. Smith if he had furnished any information about double-agent operations.

"He said he hadn't," Mr. Waguespack testified. "I told him I thought he had." The agent said he identified the operation to Mr. Smith by its code name.

'A Very Subdued Person'

With that, Mr. Smith agreed to meet Mr. Waguespack and another agent the next day, Feb. 15, 1984. At the interview, "He was a very different person, a very subdued person," Mr. Waguespack testified. "He said he thought about what he did, and that people

could get hurt, and wanted to cooperate."

Mr. Waguespack said Mr. Smith subsequently admitted giving key information to Mr. Okunev about five other double-agent operations and said he had inadvertently dropped a critical fact about still another.

Mr. Smith's defense team says it will prove that Mr. Smith was actually working for a renegade official of the Central Intelligence Agency, Charles Richardson, who operated a post in Honolulu under the name Richard P. Cavanaugh. Mr. Richardson has been subpoenaed by the defense.